

Shri Nambiar: No, Sir. I am enquiring about adding adequately to the dearness allowance.

Mr. Speaker: Can he reply?

An Hon. Member: I do not think he will be able to answer that question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the concessions given in the shape of foodgrains to Government railway employees and ex-States Railway employees differ now-a-days also?

Shri L. B. Shastri: There may be some difference somewhere, but we want to apply the same principles to both the ex-States Railwaymen and the existing Railway employees.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Government will do it just now, or whether it will be referred to the Committee?

Shri L. B. Shastri: That matter will be considered by the Railways. In so far as the merging of a portion of the dearness allowance with the basic pay is concerned, that will be considered by this Committee.

Juma CULTIVATION

*660. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the different parts or States of India where 'shifting' or 'Juma' cultivation is practised;

(b) the tribes that practise this variety of cultivation;

(c) the average number of acres that are put annually under the 'Juma' cultivation?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

AIR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

*661. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangement exists between India and Iran for reciprocal air transport services;

(b) if so, whether this arrangement is a permanent one; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative whether the Government of India propose to negotiate a permanent air agreement with the Iranian Government?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The present arrangement is temporary but a draft of a permanent Air Transport Agreement has been agreed upon by representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Iran, at Tehran on the 7th May 1952. The draft has been submitted to the respective Governments for approval. After such approval, an agreement will be signed.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Which are the airways that operate the service between India and Iran?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Himalayan Airways.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the route through which this service passes?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Ahmedabad-Karachi-Zahidan-Kandhara-Kabul.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it a fact that the Iranian Airways are permitted to operate over that area in Pakistan which is a prohibited one for Indian airways?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Iranian Airways follow this route: Tehran-Esfahan-Yazd-Kerman-Zahidan-Karachi-Bombay. It is more or less the same.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of this, do the Government of India propose to draw the attention of the I.C.A.O. to this fact?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That has already been done.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any action has been taken by that organisation in this regard?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We hope it is coming before them very soon.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether recently the Pakistan Government has made any suggestion to the Government of India regarding diversion of air route in Pakistan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have got no information with regard to that.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN W. BENGAL

*662. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken over or shortly contemplate taking over any roads as National Highways in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the roads, their length, and when are they likely to be finished?